

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. The acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 8-9, 15 and 19-22 is noted with appreciation.

The specification has been amended to insert headings. A substitute abstract has been provided.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-7, 9, 12-13, 15, 18-23 remain in the application. Claims 1, 5-7, 13 and 18 have been amended. Claim 23 has been added. Allowable Claim 8 has been canceled and incorporated into independent claim 1. New independent claim 23 generally incorporates the subject matter of the allowable claim 9 and base claim 1. Other claim amendments address formalities in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because it raises no new issues and places the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 has been objected for having insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 5-8 and 18 have been objected for having informalities.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claim set has been amended to be free from informalities and have full antecedent basis.

Objections to the Specification

The specification and abstract have been objected to as lacking headings. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the abstract and specification have been amended to insert headings.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 12-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19605709. Claims 4 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 19605709.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to generally incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 8, thereby rendering the independent claim free of the rejection over DE 19605709. Claims depending on independent claim 1 are patentable over DE 19605709 for at least this reason.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 8-9, 15 and 19-22 is noted with appreciation.

Allowable claims 8 and 9 have been amended to stand separately as independent claims 1 and 23 by incorporating the subject matter of the respective base claim. Claims 2-7, 9, 12-

13, 18-19 are instantly allowable by virtue of their dependence upon independent claim 1.

Conclusion

Upon entry this amendment, the objections and rejections have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a new Abstract of the Disclosure